



The Department of Education Mercado III entertains as it enlightens students and parents

This year, a new system of education called “Ciclo Avansa.” will be initiated in the upper grades of Aruba’s schools. This innovative system of education has already been in practice for the last two years for the first two years of the upper education, the equivalent of seventh and eighth grade in the U.S. It relies on the students themselves working together in groups, assigning to each other tasks, that complete projects as a team, aside from a number of other techniques that involve the students in their education, as opposed to sitting before a teacher giving lectures.

To acquaint parents and teacher with the new system, assist them in understanding the materials and how the program works, a School Information Fair was conducted at the Renaissance Convention Center on Saturday afternoon, August 26. Officials of SHA, the organization that administrates and monitors the Ciclo Basico and Ciclo Avansa program report that attendance was excellent, parents and students both had many questions, and a sincere interest in what lies ahead in the future of Aruba’s educational system.

Various schools had colorful, attention-getting displays that would stimulate the interest of young people. All the subjects that are taught had their own booth displaying the new texts and learning materials. School personnel were on hand to explain the new system, and to show the results of what has been going on for the past two years amongst the early grades of the middle and high schools. The new system also deals more fully with communication via modern technology, and learning computer skills.

Rene Herd , Director of SHA deemed the third annual education fair “enormously successful,” and is very pleased about the public’s reaction to the fair.

Minister of Education, Marisol Lopez-Tromp was also encouraged by the interest of the new program, and also is enthusiastic about not only the methods used, but that the curriculum offered give more information to the youth about their own island’s history, nature and culture.

Educators have high expectations for the success of Ciclo Basico and Ciclo Avansa and their ability to stimulate the island’s youth. SHA administrators will continue to monitor and evaluate the program’s worth over the next few years with surveys from students, teachers and parents.